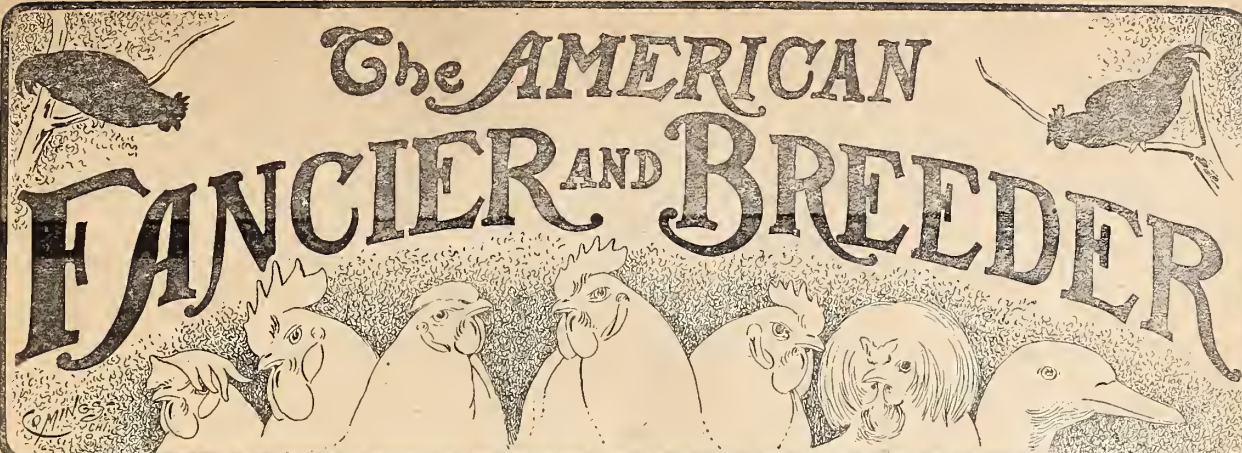


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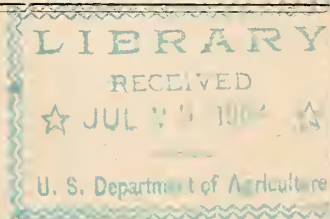
The AMERICAN FANCIER AND BREEDER



Vol. 21.

De Kalb, Illinois., July, 1904.

No. 7.



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The American FANCIER and BREEDER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO POULTRY CULTURE.

Vol. 21.

DEKALB, ILLINOIS, JULY, 1904.

No. 7.

Raising Geese for Profit.

Raising geese for market is an important industry in Rhode Island, and has proved very profitable. It stands midway in importance between the chicken and turkey industries. In view of the extent of the industry the Rhode Island Experiment Station has for several years devoted considerable attention to studying the best methods of caring for geese, the most profitable breeds and crosses the time to market, and other similar problems.

Geese are probably the hardiest of all domestic fowl, require less attention than cows or hens, and little or no outlay for buildings. The old geese do well in all weathers, with nothing in the way of shelter but a shed to run under, and usually they disdain that. They do best on wet marshy land, where hens and turkeys would not thrive. They are, however, very different other fowls, and unless their nature is understood, and their requirements met, they are the least profitable of all stock. The desirability of extending a knowledge of the best methods of geese raising, as well as making experiments that they will throw more light on the subject, is evident from the facts above stated.

In a recent report of the Rhode Island Station the work of the past years is summarized, and a number of additional tests are reported. The following breeds and crosses were tested: Embden-Brown China, Embden-Toulouse, Brown China, Emblem-African Toulouse, Brown China, Embden-White China, African-Brown China, African Toulouse, Pure African, Pure Embden, Prince Edwards Island.

The Embden-White China were the easiest to pick, were white when dressed, and though small, were plump and presented an attractive appearance. The Embden-African were also easy to pick, and were large and plump. The White-China, though the weakest and smallest of all breeds, when mated with Embden ganders produced vigorous, quick growing goslings, which were plump and solid when dressed. The Embden-Toulouse is regarded as the most satisfactory cross for large geese for Christmas and New Year trade. Pure African Embden and African crosses grow best early in the season and should be marketed early. Pure-bred China, African-Toulouse, and African-Toulouse, and African-Brown China should be dressed before fall, in order that they may be easy to pick. White-plumaged Embden and White crosses may be picked easily and

later than the others.

Old geese lay a greater number of larger eggs and are more reliable than young geese. Nevertheless, if geese must be purchased it often saves time to buy young geese rather than to attempt to secure any number of old ones. Young ganders are better for breeding than young geese. Young geese do not lay as many gosling fertile eggs or produce as many goslings the first breeding season as they do the second. If geese are often changed from one place to another they are apt not to breed well, and the other conditions being equal they breed better the third season they are in a locality than the second.

In order to insure the best results geese for breeding should be obtained as early in fall as possible, not later than October. They thus have an opportunity to become acquainted with their new surroundings before the breeding season. Breeding geese should have considerable exercise, and be kept moderately thin in flesh through the winter by light feeding and a free range of facilities for swimming. The best ganders for breeding purposes are African and Brown China. The Toulouse geese lay well, but often do not set. The Embden geese lay fewer eggs but make better mothers. Brown China and White China geese are prolific layers. Geese are graziers, and too much grain is not good for them. To insure fertile eggs they should have an abundance of green food and have access to a pond or other body of water. If this is not possible a tub of water set level with the surface of the ground may be substituted. Very early is not desirable, since the goslings do not thrive well unless they have an abundance of grass. For the first two or three days they should be given nothing except grass and water. Later a light feed of scalded cracked corn should be given in addition three times a day. The goslings are liable to be overcome by the heat, and should always have some place to retreat, where they may escape the sun's rays.

The eggs may be hatched advantageously under hens, the goslings should be immediately taken away from them. They may be brooded for a short time in outdoor brooders, and that confined in houses.

Poultry Houses.

Are you going to build a poultry house? If so, be careful to have it on land that is dry and well drained. The house with a scratching shed, open in front, is the most

popular one and gives the fowls a good place to exercise on stormy days. Personally I am not in favor of ventilators, as I believe the best of them create drafts. There is not much danger of building a house too snug. Have the windows on hinges, so that they may be easily opened to air the building while the fowls are exercising, and I am sure you will have ventilation enough. Never allow less than five square feet per fowl. Build the house facing the south, and so that the sunlight will reach all parts during the day. Pure air and sunshine are absolutely essentials to success. Remember that while large windows will make a very light house, they will also admit a great deal of cold. Place the dust box where the sun will shine on it the greater part of the day.

The roosts should be two to three feet above the floor and placed in the most sheltered part of the pen, so as to escape floor drafts. The nest boxes should not lower than eighteen inches from the floor. Hang burlap in front of the opening to extend about two-thirds of the way down. Hens like a dark place to lay.

If the house is built tight and snug, the fowls will be sufficiently warm without artificial heat. A shingle roof is the cheapest in the end.

THE AIR CELL IN THE EGG.

The air space in the large end of an egg should grow about one-eighth of an inch every day, until the eighteenth day, when the chick grows rapidly and fills up the space; Observe the space on the tenth day and measure from one side over the large end to the other side. A narrow strip of paper will do best, as it does stretch like cloth or string. It should then measure one and three-eighth inches; on the twelfth day one and a half inches; on the eighteenth day two inches for an average sized egg. The less air that gets into the machine the less moisture is needed.—Farm Journal.

Don't make a floor in the poultry house; it don't pay, and it may serve as a rat harbor. Grade the floor up a little above the ground level with gravel, if you have it, and keep it littered with dry straw or chaff. But clean it out often.

One of the most economic ways to begin thoroughbred poultry is to buy eggs. Set them under a good hen. You may raise some as good as the breeder from whom you obtained the eggs, and which could not be purchased at any price.

The AMERICAN FANCIER and BREEDER

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The Queen City Poultry Association of Manchester, N. H. will hold their second annual exhibition, December 27 to 30, 1904. The officers are: F. H. Pettigrew, president, F. H. Balch, secretary and D. J. Lambert, H. B. May and C. A. Ballou are judges.

MILLIONS OF VEGETABLES.

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POULTRY AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The dates for exhibition of poultry are from October 24 to November 5, 1904, inclusive. Meetings of the various clubs are: American Poultry Association, T. E. Orr, sec'y. Beaver, Pa. Pea Comb Rhode Island Red Club of America, John Lowe, sec'y. Swansea, Mass. American White Wyandotte Club, Maurice F. Delano. Millville, N. Y. American Plymouth Rock Club H. P. Schwab, Sec'y. Rockhester, N. Y. Ameri-

can Buff Plymouth Rock Club, W. C. Denney, sec'y. Rockhester, N. Y. American Leghorn Club, W. W. Babcock, sec'y. Bath, N. Y. National Golden Wyandotte Club, A. W. Davis, sec'y. Big Rock, Ill. National White Wyandotte Club, Ross C. H. Hallock, sec'y 6317 Clifton Ave. St., Louis, Mo. National Bronze Turkey Club, Mrs. B. F. Hislop, sec'y. Milford, Ill. National Fluff Club of America, F. J. Revely, sec'y. East Haven, Conn.

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For the past two years, Mr. Akoun has had abroad special representatives in search of new attractions, and at considerable risk and expense, obtained the consent of the various tribal kings and rulers to allow their subjects to leave their native country. In the entire reproduction, there are upwards of 750 people, including men, women and children. Continuous performances are given daily.

Egg Eating.

When fowls eat their own eggs, the trouble generally lies with the owner. Either he has not provided the material necessary for the proper sustenance of the bird or he has not properly attended to the gathering of the eggs. When fowls are permitted to stand around all day with nothing to do, and the nests are full of eggs, it is not surprising if the birds now and then accidentally break an egg and try to find out if it is good to eat. This is more than likely to be the case with fowls that are entirely grain fed. The birds are hungry for something. The eggs contain the very substance of they feel the need, and they fall to devouring it greedily. If they have had a supply of meat and vegetables, as well as grain, and had a chance to run around and hunt for food, they would seldom attack the eggs. We have known hens that ate eggs because they were apparently not right in condition themselves. We have seen a hen drop a soft shelled egg and immediately turned around and eat it. In this case of egg eating it was the derangement of the system was the cause. As this hen was being well fed and had an abundance of egg shell forming material, it is hard or impossible to account for her condition. She was the only

egg eater in the flock.

Sometimes hens get the habit of egg eating and will ransack every nest they can find. The habit spreads from fowl to fowl till all have it. We have heard it said that the only way to stop this is to cut off the heads of the fowls. This is not the case as flocks have been easily broken from this habit, even when it seemed to be well formed. The best method is to take a number of egg shells and fill them with lard, pepper, salt and mustard, and anything else that goes to make up a nauseating compound and will not permanently injure the fowls. Place the eggs where the hens can get them. In a little while they will find the fact that eggs do not taste as well as they thought. They should have all of this they want to eat. The remedy will be found an affective one where the egg eating is merely a habit and does not rest on malnutrition.

Chicken Rearing in England.

About nine years ago, when R. H. Rew wrote an account of the Sussex chicken rearing and cramming industry for the Royal Commission of Agriculture, the profits were highly satisfactory. But it appears that through this and other public notices of the undertaking, those who were engaged in it and at one time their were comparatively few—have been followed by a great number of imitators.

The cramming system has extended to many countries beyond Sussex and Surrey, and the special advantages of a monopoly have been lost. Accordingly, the profits of the poultry cramming business have been greatly reduced, and not a few of those engaged in it have been constrained to give it up.

The rearers have not suffered equally, although they have had to accept lower prices than they obtained for chickens of the right size for fattening a few years ago. When it was first announced that rearers obtained 3s. 6d. each for chickens ten to twelve weeks old, outsiders imagined that to produce the young birds must be highly remunerative, and so it would be if such a price lasted all through the season. As a matter of fact, however, it is paid for only a few weeks, and then for chickens hatched during the coldest period of the year, when hens are not apt to sit, and great care is necessary to prevent heavy losses among the young chickens. The feeding, too, is expensive and the attention required arduous.—London Standard.

Have shady runs for chicks, and no better place for both old and young stock can be found than the orchard.

In a majority of cases when there are old hens are to be marketed this fall it will pay to sell them as soon as they quit laying. Usually they will bring a higher price early in summer than in the fall.

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Old Hens.

The best use to which old hens can be put is to fatten them and sell them as soon as they can be got in the best condition, as they will sell for more money in the summer than later in the season. A hen that is past two years old rarely lays enough eggs to make it profitable to keep her. The great egg farmers of the country make it a rule to sell their hens at the end of the second summer after they are hatched, and Mr. V. N. Dreser, who is a very successful egg farmer, told the writer last fall, during a visit at his farm, that he tries to sell his hens the next summer after they are hatched. He feeds his pullets so as to have them mature early and begin laying in the fall. By following this method he keeps them laying all winter and late in the spring he begins to sell them off. Other egg farmers keep their hens over until the second summer before selling them.

On most farms there is not much effort to keep a stock of young hens on hand, and many hens are kept until 3 or 4 years old. These hens never lay in winter, when eggs are high priced, and lay but few eggs at any time in the year. With only moderately good care, a flock of hens of almost any breed should average 120 eggs each per year but under the system of keeping the same old hens year after year the average productions is not more than one-half of this number.

Very few know how good a well fattened old hen is when properly fed. If the hens are shut up in a moderately small yard and fed on a mixture of wheat and corn for about two weeks they will become very fat. They should be given all the pure water they will drink and plenty of grit while confined.

Hen fattened in this way will be plump and her flesh will be sweet and melting, the fat being distributed among the fibers of the muscles, or lean meat, in such a way that the flesh will be tender, juicy and palatable. One who has been privileged to partake of a well cooked old hen after she has been fatted properly will be persuaded to keep a few shut up for family use all the time.

If farmers would fit up and eat more of their old hens they would not need to buy much fresh meat, nor eat much fat pork. Not that nice, well-cured fat pork is not good. The writer is fond of it and believes it a wholesome meat, but variety is the spice of life and the old hen who has lived beyond her profitable usefulness as a layer, may well be made to minister to our pleasures in this way as to longer remain a pensioner on the bounty of her owner.—Ex.

The Egg Industry.

It would be well for the fancier to keep his weather eye on the egg trade, as it behooves him to be able to market all the eggs available at 40 cents per dozen; and

if he devoted his spare time to studying how to force the hens to lay all winter he would have availed himself of a fortune.

In my next article to readers of the BREEDER I will give a detail description of a winter laying house, and how to make a profit out of feed that is consumed annually by fowls that pay no profit, nor even for the food they consume they do not prepay their owner.

The average farmer sits by the fire all winter and roasts his shins, feeds his stock and talks to his neighbor about cold weather etc., etc. His hen coop is the trees, fences, and old farm implements which he does not shelter, and if the poor chickens get any his wife has to steal it while his back is turned to feed them; and if by chance some hen has found her way into the cow stable, and is protected from the cold, and lays a few eggs, he eats more of them than the rest of the family, and kicks because the hens do not lay better. Even in the summer time his good wife has sold eggs and chickens to clothe the whole family, as well as to help feed them; yet the chickens get no thought or praise from him, nor does he think enough of them to build a half way comfortable house to protect them from the cold. On the other hand, we know if he would devote a week or two through the summer preparing a place for them, and properly caring for them through the winter, they would pay him a larger per cent on his money than anything else on the farm.—N. J. GROBY, MIAMISBURG, OHIO. in M. P. B.

A Neglected Source of Profit.

It is a fact much to be regretted that farmers, as a rule, are so blind to their own interests in the matter of raising fowls. They are, by many, considered a nuisance, and it must be admitted that they are such, if not properly managed. The enterprising farmer will readily recognize the importance of stocking his farm with fine and pure bred animals, and will deny himself and family many pleasures, and even necessities, for the sake of getting his stock. But it seems to never strike him that he could, by a comparatively trifling outlay of money, unite with his stock raising a business apparently trifling, and to the eye and mind of the man accustomed to associating large profits with heavy cattle and immense hogs, work fit only for boys. This may in a measure correct, for poultry breeding is a work both light and profitable—better suited to women than is most outdoor work. It may seem an absurd statement, but it is based on the experience of practical poultry breeders, that a greater percentage of profits is to be made in a year from an investment in poultry than in any other live stock. In this country, which is filling up so rapidly, where people are already, elbowing each other and clamoring for more room, it seems wisdom, for small farmers especially, to fill up their limited space with the kind of live

stock which occupies the least room and gives the quickest returns. Aside from all questions of profit and pleasure in the occupation, there is the effect on the health of a family reared on a diet so luxurious, yet so pure, as an extensive poultry yard would afford; compare such a family with one whose chief flesh food is pork, and where eggs are regarded as a positive luxury; the difference will be very great and much in favor of the egg consumers, both mentally and physically. The French have long been considered a race of epicures, and the foundation of nearly all their most mysterious and delicious dishes may be traced to eggs or the flesh of the fowls they are such adepts in breeding. In no other country is there such an amount of skill, labor and capital invested in this business. The average American, whose motto is "hurry up," can form no idea of the patient working of these people at a branch of industry which he disdains for the simple reason that it does not require an immense tract of land and a comfortable fortune to start. This is a question which should be carefully considered by every intelligent farmer or small land holder. With the business of breeding fine hogs and cattle, give the poultry interest a fair showing, and in a year or so it will be found, with good management, to be very profitable.

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The raising of poultry for market, or fancy, if conducted in a businesslike manner is undoubtedly profitable. Care should be exercised in selecting a variety to meet both requirements. Start into the business upon a small scale and increase as your experience increases and your purse limits. Results will be slow at first, but perseverance will bring its reward. Be modest in statements as to the quality and ability of your stock, but when you have fully demonstrated its superiority then let it become widely known. Do this by moderate, system advertising does not necessarily mean the use of newspapers or circulars, but in many other ways. If you make regular trips to the city or town with butter, eggs, and poultry, establish a private trade of your own. Select a few friends for your first customers. Fair treatment on your part, and regularity in your visits will in a short time be all the advertisements you need. One pleased customer brings five more. Let it be understood that you guarantee as to freshness of eggs and condition of poultry can be depended upon. Replace all eggs and do it cheerfully. Occasionally some customer will impose upon you, but you can afford it. It won't happen often and the loss will not be great.

There is no reason why you should not find a market for all the products you can

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CARDS of 30 words or less, in card column, 1 insertion 50 cents, 3 insertions \$1.00, 6 insertions \$1.75, 12 insertions \$3.00.

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Poultry Breeders send 50c for a 20-paged monthly devoted to poultry, etc. Sample 3 cents. "Michigan Poultry Breeder," Battle Creek, Mich. Or send 55 cents and receive "Michigan Poultry Breeder," and THE AMERICAN FANCIER & BREEDER both 1 year

spare. Save the grocer's profit. Where this is not possible do the best you can with grocer and produce dealer. Keep posted on prices and demand the best. Keep in touch with prevailing conditions to the market and do not be backward in letting hucksters and grocers know that you are up-to date. This applies more particularly to farmers living some distance from market centers. If you have decided to combine fancy and market stock you must proceed in still another manner. "Culls" (poorly marked specimens) will furnish all the market material you need. I would suggest the following plan in disposing of your surplus breeding stock. Use the same judgement in doing this that you would do in selling merchandise. Keep your wares, names and place of business constantly before the people. Do not spasmodically expend \$50 in advertising to sell \$25 worth of stock. The better plan is to keep a steady, modest notice in the paper at all times. Change the reading often and make it to the point.

One notice will not overwhelm you with business. It may attract only passing notice, but the second one causes more than passing thought and name and business becomes a fixture in the subscribers mind. In a little while he looks upon you as an old friend. One whom he may trust.

He writes you and in nearly every case you make a sale.

If you have been careful in your selection of stock to ship him and have described the same accurately, and have answered his inquiries promptly he is quite sure to be pleased with your method of doing business and you have a new friend and a permanent customer. Little things will bring you into prominence, create a demand for your market produce or breeding stock and secure for you any reasonable price you may ask.

Give some plan similar to this a thorough trial and success will come to you far beyond your expectation.

Do not expect to accomplish too much at first. Patience and everlasting "push" will succeed.

Upon the no care, no feed, no shelter plan the egg complaint will surely follow, as in every instance where neglect and bad care has been pursued. By good food proper care and judicious management early hatched pullets, of most any hardy breeds, will lay more or less during the winter months. But if we desire to have from any breed of hens a supply of eggs during winter they must be kept in warm quarters and fed with nourishing, varied egg-producing food.

Never fasten the nests to the walls. No poultry house can be clear of lice as long as the nests remain in a position that prevents their being thoroughly cleaned and to do this properly they should be taken outside the house. The nests are the great harboring place for lice and need cleaning up often-

er than any other part of the quarters and it is quite an item to have them arranged so that they can be taken down readily.

Purchasers of eggs should remember that they are buying an unknown quantity as regards results. The seller cannot guarantee anything except that his breeding birds are of certain quality, and that he has properly fed and cared for them.

Do not set hens in the henhouse. A setting hen is a regular house factory. A cool out building will be much better.

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Poultry Sales.

For making a success of the poultry business it is just as important to know how to dispose of the fowls to the best advantage as to know how to raise them. Some people can have fine success in hatching and raising birds but never make the business pay and get discouraged and quit. The thing to do is to closely watch the markets. Two points are to be considered. First, be on the lookout for the place offering the greatest demand for the products of the poultry yard at the best prices; where there is demand sales can be effected at some sort of price. The price is weak or stiff according as the demand is moderate or active. These features must be scrutinized and watched close-

ly. Demand always insures sales, but one must understand where sales rule highest. Having determined as to the accessible market, offering the strongest and most constant demand, the next point to observe is that of the most promising periods to visit said market with your products. For disposing of earliest hatches, the rule is, just as quickly as the chickens can be used. They will bring best prices for a short time; but soon the market will be stocked with early chickens and prices decline. It is well then to hold the fowls till first of July. From that on to near the close on September is a good time market. From this period until late in season it is usually best to hold the products. In most cases, markets rule

highest and most active from the first week in December till a few days before Christmas when it closes down sometimes after the holidays. These general rules will almost universally bring financial success to to him who adopts and operates them. Of course, there will be exceptions, but not of such frequency and detriment as to materially effect the business with the persevering man. One more rule is important, viz.: all old hens and cockerels should be marketed early as possible except when designed as roasting fowls in which case watch the markets for best prices.—T. E. Richey, in Epitomist.

I do not feel like speaking with much authority upon the hen business, but it is rather a lingering belief that hen houses as rule are troubled with too much change of air rather than lack of it, and furthermore that the apparent need of ventilation when one goes into a house comes largely from filth, and a lack of sanitation due to droppings long preserved. The amount of air given number of hens as compared to cows, will surprise one. If we figure upon live weight alone, an average cow weighs 1,000 pounds. This would equal 200 hens. We put a cow into a space equal to 500 or 600 cubic feet as the extreme space needed. To match this for 200 hens we should have a room twenty feet long, ten feet wide and three feet high, pretty close quarters for 200 hens. That is three cubic feet for a hen. The rule calls for five square feet of floor space per fowl, and the height is usually six feet, which figures thirty cubic feet per fowl, or ten times the amount required upon a cow basis. Or this same rule, applied to cows; would give each 5,500 cubic feet of air space, equivalent to 35x20x8 feet high. Do you think ventilation would be an important question in that stake?

I am not inclined to belittle the necessity of pure air, but to magnify the values of cleanliness and so secure pure air with less frequent change. Another thing we have done this winter not found in the books, has been to give the hen less than two square feet of floor space. I will not vouch for any advise that it is the thing to do. The hens may all die any moment. All I do know is that they are healthy, hearty and lay real eggs fresh eggs too. Just a word though. They have laid regularly without regard to outside weather because they have been warm, not in spots but all over, all the time. A hen if uncomfortable one day in a week will do business the other six days upon the day's treatment. Now in this henhouse there is no other way of securing such a comparatively high temperature but to put in as many hens as possible and let them warm it.

Maybe the sickly, stunted chick you are trying to force to maturity is the one you helped out of the shell at hatching time. Not one in a hundred will ever amount to anything.



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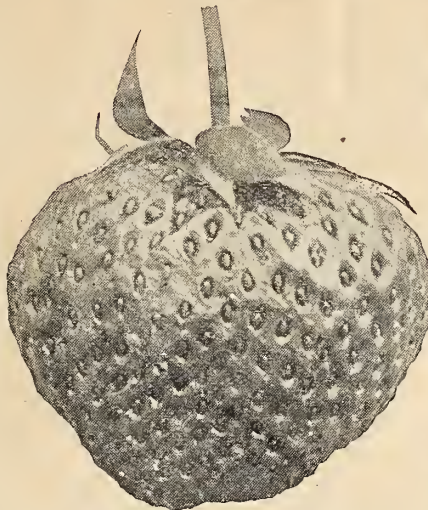
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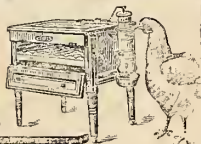


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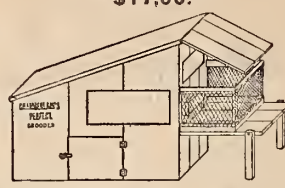
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